

Docket No.: 0026.1225

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Takahito ITOH et al.

Application No. 10/594,997

Group Art Unit: 1796

Confirmation No. 3293

Filed: January 24, 2007

Examiner: Henry S. Hu

For: SOLID-STATE POLYMER ELECTROLYTE MEMBRANE, METHOD FOR
MANUFACTURE THEREOF AND SOLID-STATE POLYMER ELECTROLYTE FUEL
CELL THEREWITH

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 31, 2009, having a shortened period for response set to expire on February 1, 2010 (January 31, 2010 being a Sunday), the following remarks are provided.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner required a restriction under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 371 to one of the following inventions:

I. Claims 1 – 3 and 8, drawn to a solid-state polymer electrolyte membrane, a primary constituent of which is a hyperbranched polymer having an acidic functional group disposed at a terminal of a side chain thereof;

II. Claims 4 and 8, drawn to a solid-state polymer electrolyte membrane that is a mixture of the hyperbranched polymer having an acidic functional group disposed at a terminal of a side chain thereof and a bridged polymer; and

III. Claims 5 – 7 drawn to a process of making a solid-state polymer electrolyte membrane.

In response, Applicants elect **Group I, claims 1 – 3 and 8**, without traverse.

Also at page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner alleged that a brief description of the drawings is missing from the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that a brief description of the drawings is clearly set forth at page 8 of the specification.

Conclusion

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our deposit account number 503333.

Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

STEIN MCEWEN, LLP

Date: February 1, 2010

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